



Map #2 Wildlife

This map layer includes the Bear Management Units and Lynx Analysis Units. The Big Game Winter Range map layer is still under development.

Bear Management Units (BMUs)

BMUs are areas established for use in grizzly bear analysis. BMUs generally (a) approximate female home range size; and (b) include representations of all available habitat components. Management requirements within and outside of BMUs have been defined to meet recovery goals for the grizzly bear. Guidelines from the grizzly bear recovery plan, the grizzly bear access amendment, and the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) are as follows:

Within recovery zone (BMUs):

- No net increase in open motorized route density (OMRD) or total motorized route density (TMRD) on Forest lands within BMUs. Some BMUs require a reduction in TMRD (see recovery goals).
- No net loss of core acreage on federal ownership in all BMUs, follow criteria for core established to replace lost existing core, strive to achieve 55% core in Priority 1 BMUs. (Core area is defined as an area of secure habitat within a BMU that contains no motorized travel routes or high use nonmotorized trails during the non-denning season and is more than 0.3 miles from a drivable road.)
- No reduction in habitat effectiveness below standard. (Habitat effectiveness is defined as a measure of habitat security within a BMU calculated by establishing buffers around open roads and other activities. The width of the buffer depends on the type of activity, but is ¼ mile for most activities. The goal is to maintain at least 70% of each BMU as effective habitat during the active bear year on the KNF and 70 square miles of effective habitat on the IPNFs.)
- Activities will be conducted outside denning and spring bear use periods.
- Bears outside the recovery zone (potential management strategies may include):
- No net increase in linear open road densities during periods of activity.
- Reduce potential impacts related to grazing and sanitation.

Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs)

LAUs are areas established for use in lynx analysis. LAUs approximate the size of a female's annual home range and encompass all seasonal habitats. LAUs also contain areas of non-lynx habitat, such as lower elevation drier sites, especially in mountainous regions. Generally, lynx conservation measures apply only to lynx habitat within LAUs, although considerations related to connectivity may be appropriate for other areas. An LAU is an area of at least the size used by an individual lynx, from about 25 to 50 mi². Management requirements from the Lynx Conservation Assessment Strategy (LCAS) within LAUs are as follows:

- Maintain habitat connectivity between LAUs.
- Unless a broad-scale assessment indicates otherwise, for LAUs where more than 30% of lynx habitat is currently unsuitable, no further reduction of suitable conditions shall occur as a result of

vegetation management projects. (Prescribed fire activities designed to restore ecological processes and maintain or improve lynx habitat are not limited.)

- Timber management practices, such as timber harvest and salvage sales, should not change more than 15% of lynx habitat within a LAU to an unsuitable condition within a 10-year period.
- Maintain denning habitat within a LAU in patches generally larger than 5 acres, comprising at least 10% of the lynx habitat.
- Where less than 10% denning habitat is present within a LAU, defer management actions that alter vegetation in stands that have the highest potential for developing denning-habitat structure in the future.
- Allow no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes, by LAU, unless the grooming or designation serves to consolidate use and improve lynx habitat. This does not apply within permitted ski area boundaries, to winter logging, or access to private inholdings.
- Restrict motorized winter access for non-recreation special uses, timber sales and mineral and energy exploration-and-development sites and facilities to designated routes.

Big Game Winter Range

Under development...This map layer will include information on the following: White-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, caribou, and to a lesser extent bighorn sheep are the principal big game species affiliated with winter range assessments. There are three primary elements to consider in managing winter range. They are thermal cover, human disturbance, and forage quality and quantity.

Thermal cover is a coniferous stand of trees 40 feet tall or taller with average crown closure of 70 percent or more. During periods of extreme snow accumulations (winter of 1996/1997) areas that provide dense crown closure are used because of snow interception that reduces snow depth on the ground. Forage quality and quantity includes the amount of available forage, the spatial arrangement of the cover and forage blocks and block size. The interaction of cover and forage may be the criteria for habitat selection. Potential management strategies may include:

- Maintaining a minimum of 60 percent cover. Favor thermal cover (no less than 40 percent) with the remaining 20 percent in thermal or hiding cover.
- Minimizing open motorized access on winter range, during the key winter use period (December 1 to April 30).
- Providing a minimum corridor width of 600 feet between forage areas. Forage areas should not exceed a maximum of 20 acres in size and no portion should be more than 600 feet from cover.
- A restoration strategy for the dry forest habitat types that are most often found on winter range. This could include thinning from below and/or underburning.